

REMOVAL OF LEAD IN DRINKING WATER FOR NH K-12 SCHOOLS

On February 8, 2018, [NH adopted Senate Bill 247 Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning from Paint and Water](#). This law requires, among other actions, that all K-12 schools and licensed childcare facilities test lead in drinking water at all locations where water is available for consumption by children. For additional information on the testing requirements please visit the Lead in Drinking Water webpage at: <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/lead-drinking-water.htm>. Any locations showing 15 ppb (0.015 mg/L) or higher must be remediated. Remediation plans must be submitted and approved by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and implemented within 30 days of the notification of test results to parents/guardians or as approved by NHDES.

To support the lead remediation efforts in NH schools, the NH Department of Education (NHDOE) secured a grant totaling \$1,600,000 from the NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF). This grant program is available to reimburse NH public and non-public schools for **50% of the total lead remediation costs**, where needed and as shown through testing. Schools are eligible for this funding for projects approved by NHDES completed any time after February 8, 2018. *Please be aware that the 50% grant funding is available for remediation at any drinking water location available for consumption by children with lead results at **5 ppb** or higher. The State strongly recommends remediating ANY detectable lead levels in drinking water due to its very severe and irreversible toxicity.*

The minimum grant amount that can be applied for is \$250 (\$500 total remediation costs). Eligible projects include lead removal and reduction solutions including, but not limited to, the removal/replacement of faucets, fixtures, fountains, solder, piping, plumbing components and/or water treatment at any drinking water location available for consumption by children with lead results at **5 ppb** or higher.

Schools apply for this grant as follows:

- 1) Schools submit a [Drinking Water Lead Removal Plan & Grant Request form](#) to NHDES for review and approval.
- 2) Schools indicate and certify in Section C of the form if they wish to apply for grant funds.
- 3) NHDES reviews and approves the plan and total estimated project budget.
- 4) Once the project is complete, the school submits a [Project Completion and Request for Payment form](#) including the retesting results and signed School Board Affidavit to NHDES.
- 5) NHDES reviews and verifies completion of work and notifies NHDOE and the school of grant request.
- 6) NHDOE submits a grant agreement to Governor & Council for approval of 50% of total eligible costs.
- 7) Typically NHDOE will process the payment to the schools once G&C approves request (typically within 60-90 days of NHDOE receipt of request)